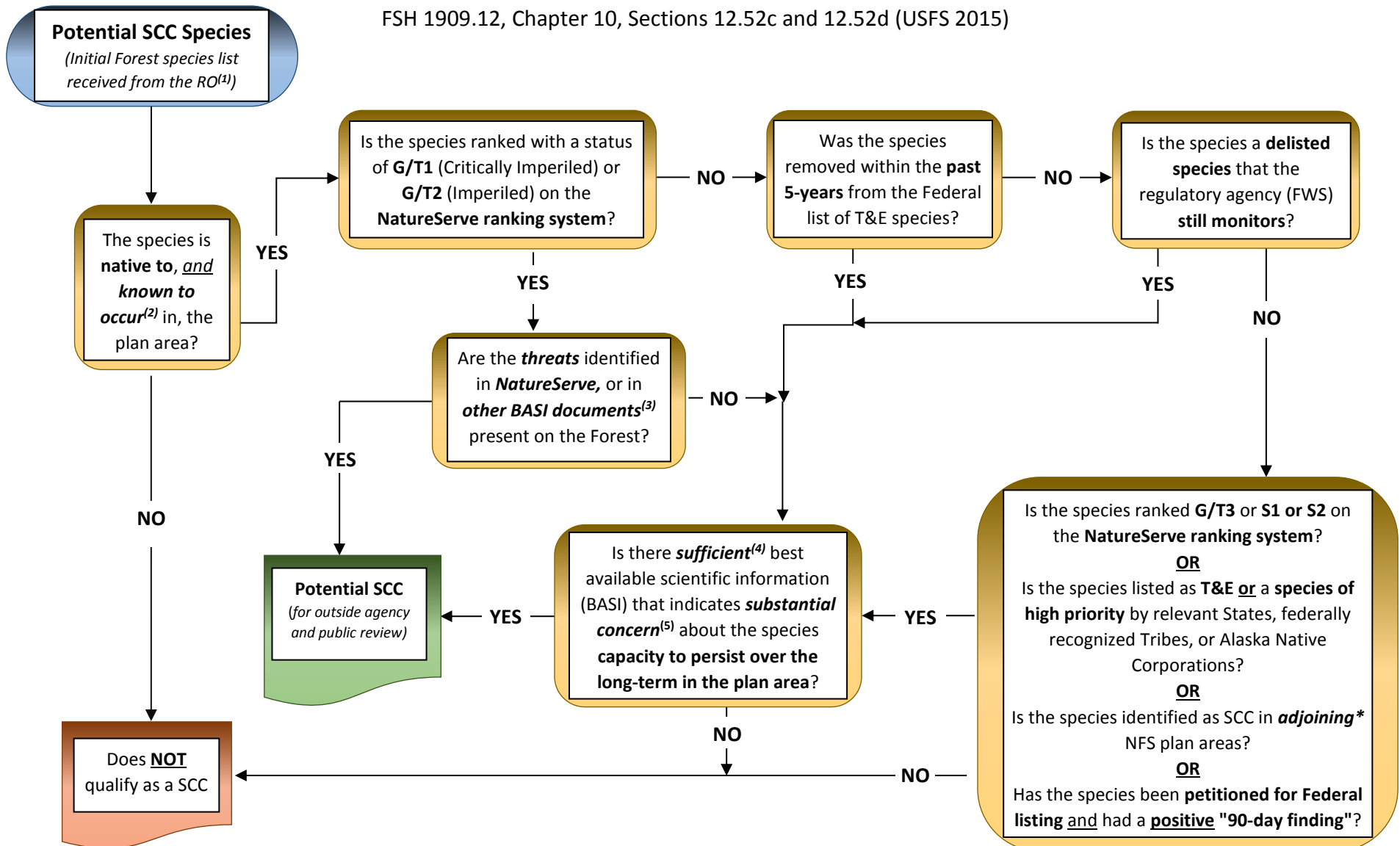


DIRECTIVE-BASED PROCESS FOR DETERMINING POTENTIAL SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN UNDER the 2012 PLANNING RULE

FSH 1909.12, Chapter 10, Sections 12.52c and 12.52d (USFS 2015)



Species of Conservation Concern (SCC): "...is a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capacity to persist over the long-term in the plan area." [USDA 2012; 36 CFR 219.9(c)].

⁽¹⁾/⁽²⁾/⁽³⁾/⁽⁴⁾/⁽⁵⁾ Definitions and clarifications available on back of flowchart.

(1)	RO Species List	The initial Forest “ <i>native and known to occur</i> ” potential SCC species list is generated using BASI in the form of: (a) the USFS NRIS wildlife Database; (b) TESP database; (c) and the State Heritage database.
(2)	“... <i>native to and known to occur ...</i> ”	<p>“<i>An organism that was historically present in a particular ecosystem as a result of natural migratory or evolutionary processes and not as a result of an accident or deliberate introduction...</i>” (§219.19)</p> <p>“<i>A species is known to occur in a plan area if, at the time of plan development the best available scientific information indicates that a species is established or is becoming established.</i>” (FSH 1909.12(10)(12.52)).</p>
(3)	Other BASI documents	In instances where there is not sufficient information for NatureServe to identify threats for a species, other BASI documents will be used if available. These include: (a) historical Forest documents (such as surveys and site visit information); (b) State Natural History species-related documents; and (c) additional information relating to the community type that species occurs in (such as the USFS Regional Intermountain Adaptation Partnership (IAP).
(4)	“... <i>sufficient...</i> ”	<p>As available data and habitat condition varies between species, ‘sufficient’ BASI was deemed to have been met when BASI was available to address population/trend and distribution of a species in addition to any known threats. The determination of ‘<i>sufficient</i>’ BASI was on a species basis by IDT specialist*.</p> <p>*For a G1/T1 or G2/T2 designated species, a lack of available BASI to address all identified threats, <u>OR</u> a lack of any available BASI to identify threats, meets the criteria for ‘sufficient’ BASI to indicate “...<i>substantial concern about the species capacity to persist over the long-term in the plan area.</i>”</p>
(5)	“... <i>substantial concern...</i> ”	“... <i>best demonstrated by some combination of threats either directly or indirectly to its characteristic habitat: decline in the sizes and/or numbers of its populations and/or declines in its habitats.</i> ” (USFS 2016)

Literature Cited

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service. 2012. The 2012 Planning Rule. Rule. Federal Register 36:219 (April 9, 2012).

U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Forest Service Handbook (FSH). 2015. 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook; Chapter 10 – Assessments. Technical Amendment. Amendment No. 1909.12-2015-1 (Effective Date: January 30, 2015).

_____, Regional Office (RO). 2016. Intermountain Region Species of Conservation Concern (Draft Feb. 2, 2016).